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or fourteen years, the author should have made a distinct effort to write for (not necessarily write down to) children of that age. The error into which the author has fallen is in thinking that a book can be equally well handled by students of eighteen and fourteen. This is shown by his choice of material, by his method of presentation, and by the selections for outside reading, most of which would stagger a college student and which to the pupil of fourteen are but words, words—a dry and compulsory task to which he applies himself by reading a page and then counting up to see how many more he must read. The fact that most college writers of texts for secondary schools fall into this error makes it none the less serious in any book.

JAMES SULLIVAN.

Essentials of United States History. By WILLIAM A. MOWRY and BLANCHE S. MOWRY. (New York: Silver, Burdett, and Company. 1906. Pp. x, 378, 56.)

The Making of the American Nation: a History for Elementary Schools. By JACQUES WARDLAW REDWAY, F.R.G.S. (New York: Silver, Burdett, and Company. 1905. Pp. xii, 420, 56.)

ESTIMATED by the number of text-books intended for pupils of the elementary schools which have been published recently, history is coming into a larger place in the curricula of these schools. Really worthy texts will do much to stimulate this interest.

The declaration, by the authors of *Essentials of United States History*, that particular stress is to be laid on the "personal element" sounds attractive. Short sketches of the careers of leading men are given either in the body of the text or as foot-notes. This feature would have been strengthened had the four and one-half pages which are devoted to Benedict Arnold (pp. 152-156) been given to the more notable and worthy characters.

Conventional titles are given the forty-one chapters, each administration being assigned a separate chapter.

"It is well," the teacher is informed (p. vi), "in many cases, merely to read over the details of war and battles, dwelling rather on causes and effects . . . the pupils should see clearly that glory is not confined to the battlefield, nor patriotism to the career of the soldier." Such a viewpoint is not emphasized by assigning fifty-five pages to the purely military account of the American Revolution, and by devoting to the Civil War one-fourth of the material from the inauguration of President Washington to the present time. Sense of proportion is lacking, also, when eight lines are given on the same page to the discussion of Hamilton's financial measures, and to the statement that Monroe came within one vote of a unanimous election (pp. 191-192). The mere outline of the Constitution and list of the presidents is of doubtful value (pp. 170-175).

A statement of fact, adequate for pupils who have devoted some time to a topic, is not sufficient for pupils in the elementary schools. They must be told *why* in the text, for outside help either from books or teachers cannot be presumed. No word of explanation is attempted relative to the influence of the conduct of Maryland in refusing at first to adopt the Articles of Confederation. Such a paragraph as the one on the Constitutional Convention (p. 167) would signify more to a pupil if, in place of the declarations: "Washington afterwards became the first and Madison the fourth President of the United States; . . . Hamilton, as the first secretary of the treasury, established our system of finance", there were some attempt made to state just what these men actually stood for in the Convention. Some reason also should be assigned for calling the Hartford Convention (p. 215), and for locating the new capital on the Potomac River (p. 197). The Genet episode ought not to be wholly omitted.

While these and other sins of omission might be overlooked, there can be no forgiveness for misleading statements and errors. Columbus, we are told, discovered the Orinoco River on his fourth voyage instead of the third (p. 14). Shall we ever learn that the statement of Mr. Gladstone relative to the making of the Constitution (p. 168) cannot be used without some modification? The "Era of Good Feeling" appears in spotless garments notwithstanding the fact that the sources indicate that they were a bit soiled (p. 217). It is misleading to assert that Calhoun, Jackson, and Crawford "held to the doctrine of state rights" (p. 225).

The language used is simple and direct. The maps and other illustrative material are not different from those to be found in a number of texts, and in some instances are poorly executed. Appendix A contains ten pages of well-selected and well-classified books for supplementary work.

The text-book written by Mr. Redway is very attractive and suggestive. The author has not hesitated to cut loose from established forms. New titles are given the chapters, and old topics are placed in new groups. Suitable recognition is given the European background to our history.

It was to be expected that the author, because of his interest in physical and commercial geography, would make industrial history the leading feature of his text-book. Indeed, the "Foreword or Two" sets forth the view that "political history may be broadly summed up as a quantitative expression of temperature, rainfall, and surface features" that the development of commerce, manufactures, etc., "and not the eloquence of statesmen in legislative halls, have made the political fabric of the nation what it is to-day". Mr. Redway is to be congratulated on the development of this thesis. There is no disappointment in the reading of his excellent chapters on the economic evolution of the country.

But the query recurs constantly, have not the political and constitutional problems been slighted and the educational and religious influences been minimized? Discussions on such topics are, at times, so condensed that it is questionable whether pupils in the elementary schools would be able to understand their significance. No adequate understanding of the work of the Constitutional Convention can be acquired unless there is some attempt to define the compromises and the necessity for them. Other features of the Northwest Ordinance besides the exclusion of slavery are worthy of mention. The annexation of Texas is made the sole cause for the Mexican War (p. 275). Such a statement as the following, without explanation, would better be omitted: "The Electoral Count Act (1887) provides for such details of counting the electoral votes as are not named in the Constitution" (p. 365).

The actual errors of statement are few in number. Hamilton's plan of government is made quite as conspicuous as the New Jersey plan (p. 183). It is not in keeping with the fact to state that "The four plans" (Virginia, South Carolina, New Jersey, and Hamilton's) "were *thoroughly* discussed. The convention discarded Hamilton's and New Jersey's plans and eventually accepted the best features of the other two plans." Thirty-nine delegates signed the Constitution; and we now know that, of the thirteen members who were absent, only four absolutely opposed the work of the Convention (p. 184). Pinckney's "No, no, no, not a six-pence!" is still made to read "Millions for defense", etc. (p. 203). No doubt is expressed about the saving of Oregon by Marcus Whitman (p. 267). The language is suitable to pupils for whom the book is intended. The "Pronouncing List of Proper Names" (appendix, pp. 46-48) will be found serviceable. Much more might have been done in the selection of books which would be appropriate for collateral reading and for reference. Bancroft's *History of the United States*, constantly cited for the history of the colonies, is of little value to grammar-school pupils. There would be but slight appreciation, also, for such reference books as Fiske's *Critical Period*, Winsor's *Narrative and Critical History*, Palfrey's *New England*, and Stephens's *War between the States*.

This text, on account of the wealth of excellent illustrative material and because of certain suggestive chapters, such as "A Period of Industrial Growth, 1789-1840", "Industrial Progress, 1845-1860", "Industrial Development and Economic Problems", and "Recent Events". might well be used by pupils as a supplementary text.

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